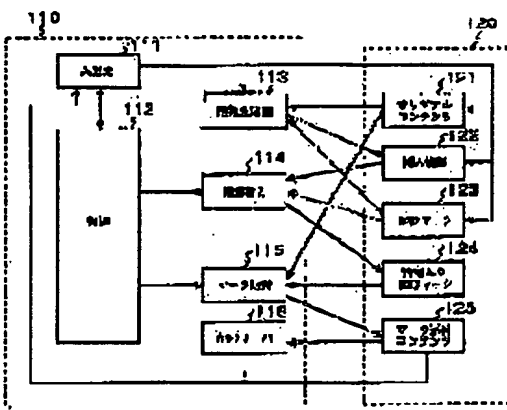


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**SOLUTION:** An information insertion part 114 changes the image size of a graphic mark 123 so as to turn the number of vertical and horizontal pixels to  $32 \times n+a$  respectively. In this case, (a) is a decimal number indicated by the bit string of 5 bits of insertion information 122 to be buried and (n) is a numerical value for making  $32 \times n+a$  closest to the original image size (128, in this case) of the graphic mark 123. Also, the respective pixel values of the graphic mark 123 are changed so as to make the average value/contrast of the pixel values of the entire graphic mark 123 to  $32 \times n+a$ . In this case, (a) is the decimal number indicated by the bit string of 5 bits to be buried and (n) is the numerical value for making  $32 \times n+a$  closest to the average value/contrast of the original pixel values of the entire graphic mark 123.



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